



Circular 3898

Released 11 June 2025

2026 NSW Sharkskin IRB Premiership Expression of Interest (EOI) to Host

Attention: Club Presidents and Secretaries, IRB Competition Team Managers

Actioned by: Club Presidents, Club Secretaries and Club Carnival Organisers

Date: 11 June 2025

Contact: Belinda Cooper – Competitions & Event Staging Coordinator
Phone: 02 9471 8000
Email: bcooper@surflifesaving.com.au

Summary:	This document is to advise all Clubs that Surf Life Saving NSW (SLSNSW) is seeking 'Expressions of Interest' (EOI) from Clubs who may wish to host a round of the 2026 NSW Sharkskin IRB Premiership Series.
Action:	Complete and submit Expression of Interest by Sunday 27 July 2025 to Belinda Cooper, Competitions & Event Staging Coordinator via bcooper@surflifesaving.com.au

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Introduction

SLSNSW is seeking Expressions of Interest from Clubs who may be interested in hosting a round of the 2026 NSW Sharkskin IRB Premiership Series.

The NSW IRB competition attracts around 350-450 competitors, 60+ officials and supporters during Autumn and Winter.

Background Information

The NSW Sharkskin IRB Premiership provides SLSNSW members with the opportunity to compete against IRB teams from across the State.

The five competition disciplines include;

- IRB Rescue
- IRB Mass Rescue
- IRB Teams Rescue
- IRB Tube Rescue
- IRB Relay

The final competition divisions and event format to be confirmed.

Host Club Benefits

As the host venue, your club receives a range of benefits for hosting this event in your local region.

Club Culture

Hosting an IRB event provides your members with the opportunity to enhance comradery and pride in the club. Often host clubs use this opportunity draw on a wider pool of volunteers to engage in the club over the autumn and winter months and breathe life into the club facilities at a traditionally 'quiet' time of year.

Local and State Profile

As part of the IRB Competition Series, your club will be promoted to the wider network of clubs in anticipation of the event. Furthermore, media exposure is possible along with social media generated by SLSNSW. This is an opportunity to showcase your club both within and external to Surf Life Saving.

Host Fee

SLSNSW will provide a hosting fee to the club for provision of services defined in a hosting MOU. This includes administrative delivery, facilities and equipment, volunteer personnel and event support. Indicative host fee is \$1200.00 incl GST (per event day) and \$500 incl GST (per scrutineering day)

Officials Catering

SLSNSW provides the host club with the opportunity to cater for 60+ officials for breakfast, morning tea, lunch and debrief. SLSNSW meets the cost for officials catering to a maximum of \$44.00 incl GST per official per 2 day event.

Refreshments

At the conclusion of competition, your club can operate a club bar (within your current liquor licence) to serve officials, competitors, and supporters.

BBQ

Your club could leverage from 350+ competitors, 60+ officials and 100+ supporters to operate a BBQ fundraiser for the duration of competition, in a prime position.

Local Council Support

Successful host clubs may be able to access local event grants and may be required to assist SLSNSW with funding applications to local councils or other organisations to reduce costs where possible.

Schedule and Format

The 2026 IRB Premiership Series is scheduled across four (4) rounds allowing for a maximum of two (2) full days for competition per round.

Please note SLSNSW reserves the right to amend/modify any of the below schedule (e.g., A round may be reduced to one (1) day of competition, include two (2) rounds on one (1) weekend or the format may be a stand-alone IRB competition) with reasonable notice to the host club.

Round 1: Saturday 2 & Sunday 3 May 2026

- 2-day event with a 0745-0800 start on both days with an approximate finish of 1600 (unless completed earlier). **Scrutineering will be included in this round on Friday 1 May 2026.**

Round 2: Saturday 16 & Sunday 17 May 2026

- 2-day event with a 0745-0800 start on both days with an approximate finish of 1600 (unless completed earlier).

Round 3: Saturday 6 & Sunday 7 June 2026

- 2-day event with a 0745-0800 start on both days with an approximate finish of 1600 (unless completed earlier).

Round 4: Saturday 20 & Sunday 21 June 2026

- 2-day event with a 0745-0800 start on both days with an approximate finish of 1600 (unless completed earlier).

State Championships: Friday 3 – Sunday 5 July 2026

- 3-day event with a 1100 start on Friday and 0745-0800 start on Saturday and Sunday with a finish of 1600 (unless completed earlier). **Scrutineering will be conducted from approximately 1200 on Thursday and continue on Friday morning.**

Previous Host Club & Branch

Year	Round 1	Round 2	Round 3	Round 4	State Championships
2015	Caves Beach, HUN	Windang, ILL	Terrigal, CC	Kiama Downs, SC	Mollymook, SC
2016	Caves Beach, HUN	Terrigal, CC	Birubi Point, HUN	South Maroubra, SYD	Mollymook, SC
2017	Caves Beach, HUN	Mollymook, SC	Ocean Beach, CC	Cape Hawke, LNC	South West Rocks, MNC
2018	Stockton Beach, HUN	The Lakes, CC	Umina, CC	Caves Beach, HUN	South West Rocks, MNC
2019	Stockton Beach, HUN	The Lakes, CC	Cape Hawke, LNC	Caves Beach, HUN	Cape Hawke, LNC
2020	Cancelled due to COVID-19				
2021	Terrigal, CC	Cape Hawke, LNC (cancelled)	Warilla Barrick Point, ILL	Ocean Beach, CC (cancelled due to COVID-19)	South West Rocks, MNC (cancelled due to COVID-19)

		due to weather)				
2022	Terrigal, CC	Bulli, ILL	Broulee Surfers, FSC	Ocean Beach, CC	South West Rocks, MNC	
2023	Warilla Barrack Point, ILL	Queenscliff, SNB	Bulli, ILL	Broulee Surfers, FSC	Round 5 South West Rocks, MNC	State Championships Ocean Beach, CC
2024	Collaroy, SNB	Fingal Beach, HUN	Avoca/Nth Avoca, CC	Ocean Beach, CC	Cape Hawke, LNC	
2025	Ocean Beach, CC	Fingal Beach, HUN	Avoca, CC	Warilla-Barrack Point, SC	Cape Hawke, LNC	

Expressions of Interest Timetable

The closing date for Clubs to submit EOI is **Sunday 27 July 2025**.

The table below outlines the venue selection process and milestone dates.

Please note that these dates will be used as a guide only and whilst SLSNSW will endeavor to achieve these milestones the dates may be subject to change due to various circumstances.

Milestone	Date
'EOI' document released to all NSW Clubs & Coastal Councils	11 June 2025
'EOI' from potential Host Clubs & Councils due to SLSNSW	27 July 2025
SLSNSW select 'shortlist' from all EOI's received.	August 2025
SLSNSW IRB Competition Venue Selection Working Group to review EOIs and provide consideration of venues to SLSNSW	August 2025
Unsuccessful Host Clubs advised	September 2025
Successful Host Club complete and sign MOU with SLSNSW	September 2025
SLSNSW formally announce the selected Host Club to the media and membership	September 2025

Venue & Event Requirements

The successful venue will be required to address the following criteria: A checklist is provided at the end of this circular. Please provide any supporting attachments with the EOI.

1. On Beach

Minimum accessible beach of 400m, including the following:

Item	Description	Dimension	Additional Information
1.1	One (1) x IRB area, straight edge at water's edge.	300m long x 25m-40m wide	Consideration to 10 'fair' lanes

1.2	Water Area (includes competition, warm up/warm down, buffer and power craft access zones)	750m of usable water area	
1.3	Minimum beach width	25m wide	Measured at high tide
1.4	Minimum of two (2) pedestrian beach access points	3m wide	
1.5	Minimum of two (2) beach vehicle access points	3m wide	
1.6	Rocks & Reefs within proposed competition area		None in proposed competition area
1.7	Tide range		Less tidal range the better
1.8	Average swell size range for month of event		Average >0.25m to <1.5m
1.9	Minimum monthly temperature average for month of event		>18 degrees C
1.10	Minimum water temperature average for month of event		>16 degrees C

2. Back of Beach

Item	Description	Dimension	Additional Information
2.1	Officials briefing/catering/licensed refreshment area		This area should be in close proximity to each other and as close as possible to the main competition areas. This could be part of the existing clubhouse.
2.2	Helicopter Landing Site	40m x 40m	Must be within a reasonable distance to the competition area.
2.3	First Aid area		Must have direct access to the beach. This may be part of the existing clubhouse.
2.4	Sufficient plumbing located at the venue		Wash down area for IRBs
2.5	Public Toilets		One (1) per 100 people
2.6	Scrutineering site	Minimum 50 sq./m space	Consideration to fresh water supply
2.7	Sponsor activation area	9x6m	Close to competition area

3. Contingency Location

Item	Description
3.1	The proposed alternative venues should face a different direction and prevailing conditions to that of the main venue
3.2	Two (2) alternative locations should be nominated, meeting similar requirements of the proposed venue, i.e., minimum length of 300m, or flat-water venue with minimum length 200m
3.3	Include maps of the proposed alternative venues
3.4	Sufficient access for vehicles

3.5	Water quality suitable for swimming
3.6	All successful venues will need to be available to host if conditions require.

4. Other Logistical Requirements

Item	Description
4.1	Accessible to adequate emergency services including hospital and ambulance service
4.2	Access to medical, pharmaceutical, dental, physio and chiropractic services
4.3	The venue must be available to SLSNSW from Friday 12pm prior to the event prior to the event until two (2) hours after the completion of last race
4.4	A designated car park and/or on street parking of 50 spaces; (includes officials and 30x IRB Trailers)
4.5	Provide an overview of facilities in the area including shopping centres, entertainment facilities, public transport, and accommodation
4.6	Pencil booked all IRB dates with Council

Checklist for Host Venue

Prospective host venue to complete checklist addressing the items **Venue & Event Requirements**, as well as the points below, as a minimum.

5. Essential Criteria

Item	Description
5.1	One (1) nominated key organising contact
5.2	A minimum of five (5) fully operational IRBs (including 2-stroke motors only)
5.2a	Provision of 50 plastic chairs and eight (8) tables
5.3	High & low tide times must be stated for the nominated event
5.4	Available accommodation within a reasonable distance from the venue
5.5	Public viewing areas
5.6	Proximity to a shopping complex
5.7	A suitable contingency venue with sufficient beach and a flat-water venue in the event of unfavourable sea conditions (within a reasonable distance from the proposed venue)
5.8	Local Government support (i.e., pencil booking dates). The Council special event application must be completed by the host Club in consultation with SLSNSW after successful EOI advised.
5.10	Provide officials catering for the carnival (approx. 60-70)
5.11	Provide First Aid equipment and consumables.
5.12	A minimum of two (2) ATV/4WD vehicles as required for the event
5.13	Sufficient trailer and car parking. Minimum 50 car parks for IRB Trailers and officials
5.14	Club and Branch endorsement
5.15	Detailed map outlining the site layout and alternate site layout

Other items that will be required for consideration include,

Item	Description
6.1	Gear storage areas
6.2	Suitable wash down area
6.3	Craft scrutineering and gear storage area with considerations for large numbers of craft, motors, and competitors
6.4	Sufficient workforce for the duration of the event (10x minimum)
6.5	Minimum four (4) tents and star pickets
6.6	Waste and recycling bins with regular cleaning
6.7	Team Managers and officials briefing / debrief areas (25+ Team Managers and 60-70 officials)
6.8	Power supply
6.9	Drinking water
6.10	Provision of hot foods in case of cold weather / water
6.11	Nearby public or other toilet facilities
6.12	Public address equipment

Closing Dates

Clubs interested in submitting EOI should indicate to SLSNSW that an EOI is pending by emailing Belinda Cooper, Competitions & Event Staging Coordinator: bcooper@surflifesaving.com.au

Clubs must also contact their Council to provide notification that a Surf Life Saving competition could be staged on the nominated dates. This is to avoid any event clashes with any other beach users/event organisers. **A formal Event Application will need to be submitted to Council by successful Host Clubs.**

The EOI addressing the criteria is due to Surf Life Saving NSW by **Sunday 27 July 2025**. Please note that the EOI requires endorsement by the Branch.

Draft Site Map

Please include a draft site map similar to the **example below** for the main and all contingency locations. The site map is not expected to be to scale.

Consider including;

- ☐ Car parking
- ☐ Trailer parking
- ☐ Water competition area
- ☐ Club tents
- ☐ Vehicle access
- ☐ Pedestrian access
- ☐ UAV
- ☐ First Aid
- ☐ Scrutineering (if applicable)

2024 IRB State Championships
Cape Hawke

